

REMARKS

These remarks are in response to the Final Office Action. In connection with the filing of a Request for Continuing Examination, kindly amend the above-identified application as follows:

Action 2, 3 Drawings

Proposed revised drawings are attached; numerals 49, 55 have been added to the unnumbered bars of the four-bar linkage, and the linkage is identified by numeral 25.

No new matter is added.

Specification Amendments

The specification has been previously amended to include the new drawing numerals.

No new matter is added. The specification has also been previously amended to correct the two typographical errors noted by the Examiner.

Action 4, 5

Claims 1-3 under Section 102(b) – Smith US 3,353,855

Claims 1-3 have been amended to delete reference to a locus, as the Examiner was misinterpreting that term. These claims now refer to the housing major portion as a point of reference. The pull handle opposes that major portion. The latch is mounted within the housing major portion as Smith does also, but in the invention the lever that actuates the latch is "beyond the housing major portion," whereas Smith has his lever (100, 110) well within his housing (major) portion. Claims 2 and 3 depend on claim 1 and are patentable at least for reasons advanced in connection with claim 1. The

rejection of claims 1-3 as anticipated by Smith is respectfully traversed.

Action 6 Claims 1-7 under Section 102(b) – Tucker US 3,177,687

Like Smith, Tucker fails to teach a lever beyond the housing (major portion, opposite the lever handle 50 or the pull 18), as the Action concedes and as is confirmed by a consideration of Fig. 3 of Tucker's drawings. Note the location of lever 50 under the handle 18 in Tucker Fig. 3. Claim 1 recites the housing major portion opposite the handle/pull and location of the lever beyond that housing major portion. The Tucker device suffers from the problems of the prior art: the hand activated lever is under the handle and awkward to reach. Applicant has moved the lever to beyond the handle and the major portion of the housing. This is not taught by Tucker.

Dependent claims 2-7 are urged to be patentable over Tucker at least for reasons advanced in connection with claim 1. Claim 7 recites a feature not found in Tucker including lever and latch plates and bars movably fixed to the plates in diametrically opposed relation for transmitting rotary movement. Support is found in the drawings and at page 6, line 17 and following of the specification.

Action 7, 8 under Section 103(a) – Tucker 3,177,687

The difference between Tucker and the present claims 8-12 is not a mere selection of length, but of passing the means of actuating the latch within the housing major portion outside the housing major portion that is opposite the handle and thus trammelled for access purposes, to a new location: beyond the housing major portion, where the

turning of the lever is easy. Tucker does not show this arrangement. And by showing the opposite (his lever and latch are both under the handle), he cannot be said to suggest or make obvious what is being claimed here. It is further noted that Tucker does not have latch/lever connections that extend from within the housing major portion (opposite the handle bar) to beyond the housing major portion. Indeed, the actuators in Tucker are entirely within the housing major portion, opposite the handle bar. This is not a matter of merely a change in proportions, but a new result is realized.

With the invention, the problem of an inaccessible operating lever because of the formerly required close proximity of latch and lever is obviated. There is nothing in Tucker to suggest that the patentee contemplated this desirable result. Nor is there any suggestion in Tucker that the lengths of his actuators are variable for any purpose. There is nothing in the present record to suggest any motivation for changing the actuator lengths in Tucker, which it may be noted would require a thorough reengineering of the assembly shown by Tucker. Claims 8-12 are not obvious in view of Tucker.

Action 9 under Section 103(a) – Tucker 3,177,687 in view of Sperry US 3,413,025

Claim 13 recites the latch assembly to have a vertically disposed pull handle, a lever beyond the handle and the latch opposite the handle and a 4-bar coupling therebetween. Tucker has no such structure as noted above. Sperry teaches a latch assembly of spaced latches operated in concert via a linkage which has five bars, not four. Sperry lacks a vertically disposed pull handle opposite the latch housing and thus

does not have the problem solved by the invention. Nor is there any point in spacing the lever and latch in Sperry to avoid interference by the handle location, since Sperry has but a small horizontal handle.

The Action suggests substituting the Sperry linkage for the Tucker linkage, but neither reference shows any motivation to do so.

The combination is suggested in the Action to result in a latch system having four (five) bars that extends from the latch housing to beyond the latch housing, but there is no such teaching in the combined references. Rather it appears that the combination would have the entire linkage in the housing major portion, and not extending beyond the housing major portion. After all, the linkage in Sperry is entirely within the housing (between the latches per se), and so is the linkage in the Tucker arrangement, all opposite the handle in the housing major portion. So, there is no suggestion of Applicant's arrangement where the lever is beyond the handle (housing major portion).

Claim 13 is not obvious in view of Tucker and Sperry.

Newly Added Claims

Claims 14 to 21 are added to provide additional protection for the invention. These claims are patentable over the above-discussed references for reasons covered in discussing claims 1-13.

Conclusion

Please enter the foregoing amendments. Reconsideration is requested; allowance of all claims is requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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